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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Home Economics  
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GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT VARIOUS TYPES OF VACUUM CLEANERS

There are three types of cleaners: (1) those that depend on suction only, (2) those that combine the action of a revolving motor-driven brush with suction, and (3) those that combine a beating action with that of the revolving brush and suction.

Some years ago the majority of vacuum cleaners on the market were straight suction sweepers due to the fact that one company controlled the patent on the revolving brush. When the patent expired other companies adopted this general principle so that at present the majority of the vacuum cleaners on the market are rotary brush machines.

Most revolving brushes require a belt to operate them. The frequent breaking of this belt is a marked inconvenience unless one always carries an ample supply of new belts on hand. Another objection to the revolving brush machines is that the brush gets so clogged with lint, hair and string that it is difficult to keep the machine in a condition for maximum efficiency of the brush. The efficiency is also decreased as the brushes wear down. To offset this difficulty some cleaners have provision for resetting the brush closer to the carpet.

There are some straight suction machines still on the market. The relative merit of straight suction and the suction and brush types of machines depends largely on the amount of suction power in the machine. Other factors have been found to affect them also, such as the speed of the motor, the size and shape of the nozzle, the size and shape of the fan chamber and the kind of brush used in the suction and brush machines. But in general straight suction machines have a higher suction power than the average brush and suction cleaner.

A third type of machine available on the market combines suction, a rotary brush and a beating device. The argument put forward for the beating device is that it loosens the gritty dirt that gets imbedded in the pile of a rug and brings it nearer the surface where the suction and revolving brush can be more effective in gathering it up along with the surface dirt or litter. Machines of this type rank very high in dirt removal. Experiments made recently along this line show that these machines also have an accompanying high record for the percentage of nap removed, as would be expected. However, this question of removal of nap is not an important factor as related to the average life of a good rug for it has much less harmful an effect on the life of the rug than leaving the dirt in the rug has. Cleaners equipped with stiff brushes were found to remove a larger percent of nap than those equipped with softer brushes.

The prospective purchaser of an electric cleaner should insist on a guarantee that the machine is proof against any danger of shock resulting from bad wiring, poor connections and inadequate electric insulation. She should also be assured that it can be easily and quickly

serviced in the locality. She should further insist on having an opportunity to try out the machine herself to make sure that it is quiet and easy to operate, reasonably light in weight so that it pushes around easily, that the switch for starting and stopping the machine is conveniently located, that the cord is long enough and is flexible, that the attachments are easily connected and that they are well planned for convenience in meeting the cleaning needs to be taken care of, and that the dust collecting bag is easy to detach and has a wide mouth to make emptying of the bag easy.

This ease of emptying and keeping the dust bag clean is very important for the suction power of any machine is very quickly affected by any hindrance to the free flow of air through the bag. Dust clinging to the inside walls of the bag lessens the efficiency of the cleaner, and the dust bag must therefore be thoroughly cleaned at frequent enough intervals and if necessary renewed so as to insure the maintenance of its cleaning efficiency.

The proper care of a machine is quite as important in securing the maximum efficiency as the selection of the machine and the purchaser should be sure that she understands and carries out the directions for using, cleaning and oiling the machine while assuring herself before buying of the simplicity of these operations.

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